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## THE ROYAL CROWN.

*From the Hebrew of Solomon ibn Gebirol.*

[*Extracts from the Second and Third Parts.*]

## I.

Beyond conception great  
Thy power is, wherewith thou did'st create  
From out thy glory's depths a radiant flame,  
Hewn from the rock of rocks and wrought  
Out of eternity, with wisdom fraught,  
The soul, the living soul,—thus did'st thou call its name.  
By thee, Omnipotent,  
Formed of the spirit's fire, and sent  
To guard and keep and serve awhile this earthly frame.

Beyond all recompense,  
O Lord our God, is thy beneficence,  
In that thou did'st enshrine  
Within the body's cage the soul, that gift divine,  
To give man life and light,  
From evil rescue him and lead his steps aright.

Beyond all mysteries,  
Lord, of thy wondrous works the secret lies,  
In that thou gavest man  
The power of sight thy mighty world to scan,  
Gavest the listening ear  
Of all thy glorious miracles to hear,  
The mind to apprehend  
A portion of thy wonders without end,

And speech wherewith to praise  
Thy works, and tell of all thy wondrous ways.  
Lo! even thus do I,  
Son of thy handmaid, with humility  
And faltering lips, proclaim  
How thou exalted art, how glorious is thy name.

## II.

Shame-stricken, bending low,  
My God, I come before thee, for I know  
That, even as thou on high  
Exalted art in power and majesty,  
So weak and frail am I,  
That perfect as thou art,  
So I deficient am in every part.  
  
Thou art all-wise, all-good, all-great, divine,  
Yea, thou art God ; eternity is thine,  
While I, a thing of clay,  
The creature of a day,  
Pass shadow-like, a breath, that comes and flees away.  
What is my life, my strength, my righteousness,  
That I should dare abide  
Before thee, torn by passions numberless,  
With soul unpurified!

## III.

My God, I know my sins are numberless,  
More than I can recall to memory  
Or tell their tale ; yet some will I confess,  
Even a few, though as a drop it be  
In all the sea.

I will declare my trespasses and sin,  
And peradventure silence then, may fall  
Upon their waves and billows raging din,  
And thou wilt hear from heaven, when I call,  
And pardon all.

I have transgressed and sinned and turned aside  
From thy most holy precepts, day by day,  
I have rebelled, thy law I have defied,  
In scorn and folly, from the heavenward way  
Have gone astray.

Corrupted are my paths, and prone my heart  
To deeds of evil. Righteous, O Most High!  
In all that has befallen me thou art;  
For just and faithful hast thou been, but I  
Did wickedly.

## IV.

My God, if mine iniquity  
Too great for all endurance be,  
Yet for thy name's sake pardon me.  
For if in thee I may not dare  
To hope, who else will hear my prayer?  
Therefore, although thou slay me, yet  
In thee my faith and trust is set;  
And though thou seekest out my sin,  
From thee to thee I fly to win  
A place of refuge, and within  
Thy shadow from thy anger hide,  
Until thy wrath be turned aside.  
Unto thy mercy I will cling,  
Until thou hearken pitying;  
Nor will I quit my hold of thee,  
Until thy blessing light on me.

Remember, O my God! I pray,  
How thou hast formed me out of clay,  
What troubles set upon my way.  
Do thou not, then, my deeds requite  
According to my sins aright,  
But with thy mercy infinite.

For well I know, through good and ill,  
That thou in love hast chastened still,  
Afflicting me in faithfulness,  
That thou my latter end may'st bless.

## V.

Therefore, O Lord, let now thy mercies be  
Inclined towards me, and my sins forgot,  
And let thy wrath be turned away from me,  
So that I perish not.

Mayest thou, O my God, to me return  
With mercy, and in thy beneficence,  
Cause me to seek thy face, the joy to learn  
Of perfect penitence.

Incline thine ear to me my prayer to grant,  
Prepare my heart thy mercy to implore,  
Teach me thy law and in my soul implant  
Thy fear for evermore.

O, may it be thy gracious will to guard  
Me from all deeds of evil passions born,  
From off my path the evil powers to ward,  
Temptation, sin, and scorn.

Be with my lips in prayer and guard my way,  
Lest with my tongue I sin. Save me from harm  
And give me refuge through life's stormy day  
Within thy sheltering arm.

## VI.

My God, I know that those who plead  
To thee for grace and mercy need  
All their good deeds should go before,  
And wait for them at heaven's high door.  
But no good deeds have I to bring,  
No righteousness for offering,  
No service for my Lord and King.

Yet hide not thou thy face from me,  
Nor cast me out afar from thee;  
But when thou bid'st my life to cease,  
O, may'st thou lead me forth in peace  
Unto the world to come, to dwell  
Among thy pious ones, who tell  
Thy glories inexhaustible.

There let my portion be with those  
Who to eternal life arose,  
There purify my heart aright,  
In thy light to behold the light.  
Raise me from deepest depths to share  
Heaven's endless joys of praise and prayer,  
That I may evermore declare:

Though thou wast angered, Lord, I will give thanks to thee,  
For past is now thy wrath, and thou dost comfort me.

## VII.

Lord, thy heavenly love bestoweth  
All the good my spirit knoweth,  
All my life-long benedictions  
From thy gracious hand they came.  
May thy hallowed fear enfold me,  
May thy perfect law uphold me,  
That my soul in glad submission  
To thy great and awful name,  
Praise and prayer and thanks outpouring,  
Sanctifying and adoring,  
May exalt it, and extol it, and its unity proclaim.

Blessed, exalted, glorified,  
Praised, extolled, and sanctified,  
    Art thou, O Lord,  
    And eternally adored,  
And thy unity made known  
By the righteous and the just,

By those risen from the dust,  
By the angels round thy throne,  
And by those who ceaselessly  
Do proclaim thy unity.  
For among the mighty none  
Are like unto thee, nor one  
Of their works is like to thine.  
Thou by all the host divine,  
By cherubim and seraphim,  
Radiant spirits manifold,  
Unto thee acceptable,  
Art in heaven above extolled.  
And thy people Israel  
With awe and reverence proclaim :  
"God is one and one his name!"

Thou art God in highest heaven,  
On this earth, that thou hast given  
Unto man, and none beside thee  
Was, or is, or e'er shall be.  
May my words of adoration,  
May my inward meditation,  
O my Rock and my Redeemer,  
Prove acceptable to thee!

ALICE LUCAS.